

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 25, 28 and 29, and cancel claims 16-18 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Spring element of claim 27 wherein the hydropneumatic strut has a hydraulic height regulator valve or a height sensor connected with a feedback loop, by means of which the position of the strut piston in the strut cylinder is adjusted or determined.

2. (Previously presented) Spring element according to claim 1 , wherein the feedback loop is a mechanical feedback loop that emits a signal in a strut adjustment area, which said signal is dependent on the position of the strut piston.

3. (Previously presented) Spring element according to claim 2, wherein the mechanical feedback loop emits, exclusively in the strut adjustment area, a signal dependent on the position of the strut piston, while the position of the mechanical feedback loop remains constant above and below the adjustment area.

4. (Currently amended) Spring element with a hydropneumatic strut to be positioned between a bogie and a body of a rail car,

with the strut enclosing a sliding strut piston in a strut cylinder, whereby the strut piston or strut cylinder is connected with the bogie and other of the strut piston and the strut cylinder is connected with the body, and

a strut cylinder piston space is connected with a hydraulic accumulator, wherein

the spring element comprises an auxiliary spring which is concentrically arranged with the strut, encloses the strut cylinder, and is preloaded by a hydraulic cylinder which is connected with the strut cylinder piston space,

wherein the hydropneumatic strut has a hydraulic height regulator valve or a height sensor connected with a feedback loop, by means of which the position of the strut piston in the strut cylinder is adjusted or determined,

wherein the strut piston has a lug with at least some conical sections, and the feedback loop is a mechanical feedback loop that comes into contact with the surface of the lug at least in the conical area and undergoes a deflection dependent on the position of the lug.

5. (Currently amended) Spring element according to claim 27, wherein a bore extending in a longitudinal direction of the strut cylinder is positioned in a strut cylinder head, and the mechanical feedback loop of a height regulator valve or a height sensor is located in a bore extending perpendicular thereto in the strut cylinder head.

6. (Previously presented) Spring element according to claim 27, wherein the auxiliary spring is integrated into the strut in such a manner that the auxiliary spring does not increase the length of the strut.

7. (Currently amended) Spring element according to claim 6, wherein ~~the auxiliary spring and the strut are arranged concentrically and that~~ the auxiliary spring encloses the strut cylinder.

Claims 8 to 10, (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) Spring element with a hydropneumatic strut to be positioned between a bogie and a body of a rail car,

with the strut enclosing a sliding strut piston in a strut cylinder, whereby the strut piston or strut cylinder is connected with the bogie and other of the strut piston and the strut cylinder is connected with the body, and

a strut cylinder piston space is connected with a hydraulic accumulator, wherein

the spring element comprises an auxiliary spring which is concentrically arranged with the strut, encloses the strut cylinder, and is preloaded by a hydraulic cylinder which is connected with the strut cylinder piston space,

wherein the hydropneumatic strut has a hydraulic height regulator valve or a height sensor connected with a feedback loop, by means of which the position of the strut piston in the strut cylinder is adjusted or determined, and

further comprising an adjustment unit, aligned with the strut, that is height adjusted in the direction of movement of the strut and which is ~~supported on~~ supporting the strut piston or strut cylinder.

12. (Currently amended) Spring element with a hydropneumatic strut to be positioned between a bogie and a body of a rail car, with the strut enclosing a sliding strut piston in a strut cylinder, whereby one of the strut piston or the strut cylinder is connected with the bogie and the other of the strut piston and strut cylinder is connected with the body, and a strut cylinder piston space is connected with a hydraulic accumulator, wherein the hydropneumatic strut has a hydraulic height regulator valve or a height sensor connected with a feedback loop and having a horizontally movable displacement indicator, by means of which the position of the strut piston in the strut cylinder is adjusted or determined, wherein the spring element includes an adjustment unit, aligned with the strut, that is height adjusted in the direction of movement of the strut and which is ~~supported on~~ supporting the strut piston ~~or strut cylinder~~, and

wherein the adjustment unit includes a hydraulic cylinder piston introduced into a hydraulic cylinder, height-adjustable in the direction of movement of the strut, and ~~supported on~~ supporting the strut piston ~~or strut cylinder~~.

13. (Previously presented) Spring element according to claim 12, comprising an equalizer pendulum one end of which is connected with the strut piston and the other end of which is connected with the hydraulic cylinder piston, the ends of the equalizer pendulum being spherical,

to facilitate a movement of the strut crossways to the direction of movement of the strut piston and hydraulic cylinder piston.

14. (Currently amended) Spring element with a hydropneumatic strut to be positioned between a bogie and a body of a rail car,

with the strut enclosing a sliding strut piston in a strut cylinder, whereby the strut piston or strut cylinder is connected with the bogie and other of the strut piston and the strut cylinder is connected with the body, and

a strut cylinder piston space is connected with a hydraulic accumulator, wherein

the spring element comprises an auxiliary spring which is concentrically arranged with the strut, encloses the strut cylinder, and is preloaded by a hydraulic cylinder which is connected with the strut cylinder piston space, and comprising an adjustment unit, aligned with the strut, that is height adjusted in the direction of movement of the strut and which is ~~supported on a~~ supporting ~~the strut piston or a strut cylinder.~~

15. (Canceled).

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

Claims 19 to 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) Spring element of claim 27 comprising an end-stop element that is designed to slide longitudinally in the direction of movement of the strut piston and by means of which the end position of the strut piston in the strut cylinder is changed.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) Spring element with a hydropneumatic strut to be positioned between a bogie and a body of a rail car,

with the strut enclosing a sliding strut piston in a strut cylinder, whereby the strut piston or strut cylinder is connected with the bogie and other of the strut piston and the strut cylinder is connected with the body, and

a strut cylinder piston space is connected with a hydraulic accumulator, wherein

the spring element comprises an auxiliary spring which is concentrically arranged with the strut, encloses the strut cylinder, and is preloaded by a hydraulic cylinder which is connected with the strut cylinder piston space,

wherein said spring element further includes a horizontally movable displacement indicator.

28. (Currently amended) Spring element according to Claim 1, wherein said height sensor or hydraulic height regulator valve is positioned above said strut piston and in a strut cylinder head mounted upon said strut cylinder.

29. (Currently amended) Spring element with a hydropneumatic strut to be positioned between a bogie and a body of a rail car,

with the strut enclosing a sliding strut piston in a strut cylinder, whereby the strut piston or strut cylinder is connected with the bogie and other of the strut piston and the strut cylinder is connected with the body, and

a strut cylinder piston space is connected with a hydraulic accumulator, wherein

the spring element comprises an auxiliary spring which is concentrically arranged with the strut, encloses the strut cylinder, and is preloaded by a hydraulic cylinder which is connected with the strut cylinder piston space,

wherein the hydropneumatic strut has a hydraulic height regulator valve or a height sensor connected with a feedback loop, by means of which the position of the strut piston in the ~~hydraulic~~ strut cylinder is adjusted or determined

wherein said height sensor or hydraulic height regulator valve is positioned above said strut piston and in a strut cylinder head mounted upon said strut cylinder, and

wherein said height sensor or hydraulic height regulator valve comprises a displacement indicator arranged therein to be movable substantially horizontally.

30. (Previously presented) Spring element according to Claim 29, wherein said strut cylinder head comprises an upwardly-extending bore and said strut piston comprises a lug extending upwardly therefrom and having a conically-tapering upward end arranged to be movably mounted within said bore,

such that during operation, said displacement indicator calipers a surface of said conically-tapering end of said lug.